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RETAIL TRADE, MARCH 2024

In March 2024, the retail trade turnover decreased at the monthly level, while it increased at the annual level.

At the monthly level, the retail trade turnover of food and non-food products decreased

In March 2024, the total seasonally and working-day adjusted deflated retail trade turnover of all business entities engaged in this activity was in real terms 0.1% lower than in February 2024. Out of this, the retail trade turnover of food products decreased by 0.4% and the retail trade turnover of non-food products (except for automotive fuels and lubricants) by 3.7%.

At the annual level, the retail trade turnover has continuously been increasing in real terms since April 2023

In March 2024, compared to the same month of the previous year, the working-day adjusted retail trade turnover increased in real terms by 8.9%. Out of this, the retail trade turnover of food, beverages and tobacco increased by 8.2% and the retail trade turnover of non-food products (except for automotive fuels and lubricants) by 10.0%.

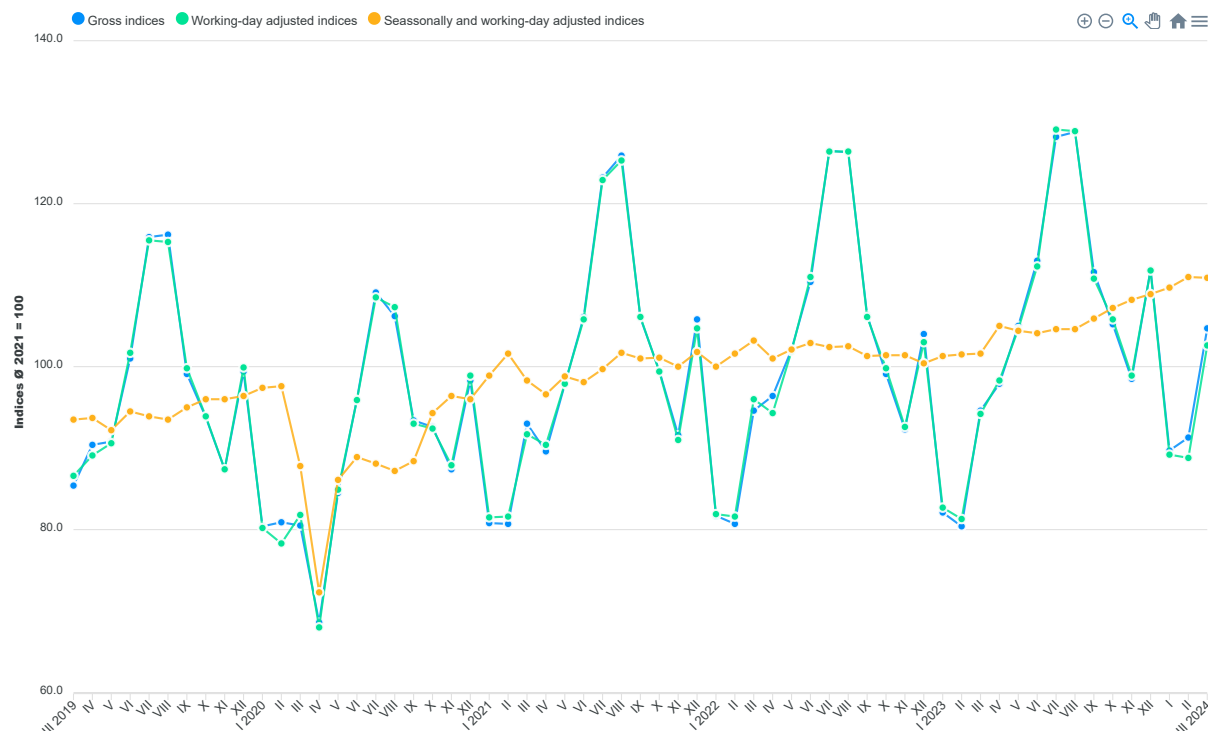
In the first three months of 2024, the working-day adjusted retail trade turnover increased by 8.6% in real terms compared to the same period of the previous year.

Sale in non-specialised stores with food, beverages and tobacco predominating had the largest impact on the increase in nominal turnover

In March 2024, according to gross, unadjusted indices, eight trade branches recorded an increase in turnover, while only one trade branch recorded a decrease compared to the same month of the previous year.

The largest impact on the increase in the nominal turnover in March 2024 compared to the same month of the previous year, according to gross, unadjusted indices, was recorded in the following trade branches: Non-specialised stores with food, beverages and tobacco predominating, with a rise in turnover of 19.2% and an impact on the total turnover of 7.1%, Automotive fuels and lubricants, with a rise in turnover of 16.1% and an impact on the total turnover of 2.8%, and Dispensing chemists, medical and orthopaedic goods, optical products, cosmetic and toilet articles, with a rise in turnover of 25.1% and an impact on the total turnover of 2.2%. Accordingly, the total gross retail trade turnover increased in nominal terms by 14.5% compared to the same month of the previous year.

G-1 VOLUME RETAIL TRADE TURNOVER INDICES, 2019 - 2024



1 RETAIL TRADE TURNOVER – MONTH-ON-MONTH GROWTH RATES

%

	X 2023 IX 2023	XI 2023 X 2023	XII 2023 XI 2023	I 2024 XII 2023	II 2024 I 2024	III 2024 II 2024	
Seasonally and working-day adjusted indices ¹⁾							
Value index	1,0	0,8	1,3	0,7	1,6		-0,3
Volume index	1,2	0,9	0,7	0,7	1,1		-0,1
Gross (unadjusted) indices							
Value index	-5,2	-6,6	12,7	-20,5	1,8		15,9
Volume index	-5,7	-6,4	13,7	-19,9	1,8		14,7

1) Data compared to those of the previous month are seasonally and working-day adjusted data.

2 RETAIL TRADE TURNOVER – YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATES

%

	X 2023 X 2022	XI 2023 XI 2022	XII 2023 XII 2022	I 2024 I 2023	II 2024 II 2023	III 2024 III 2023	I – III 2024 I – III 2023
Working-day adjusted indices ¹⁾							
Value index	12,3	11,4	13,5	12,3	13,4	12,6	12,7
Volume index	6,0	6,8	8,5	7,9	9,1	8,9	8,6
Gross (unadjusted) indices							
Value index	12,4	11,5	12,3	13,4	17,6	14,5	15,1
Volume index	6,1	6,7	7,6	9,2	13,4	10,7	11,1

1) Data compared to those of the same month of the previous year are the working-day adjusted data.

3 SEASONALLY AND WORKING-DAY ADJUSTED RETAIL TRADE TURNOVER INDICES

NKD 2007 activity code	Retail trade turnover						
	Value indices			Volume indices			
	I 2024 XII 2023	II 2024 I 2024	III 2024 II 2024	I 2024 XII 2023	II 2024 I 2024	III 2024 II 2024	
47	Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	100,7	101,6	99,7	100,7	101,1	99,9
47.11 + 47.2	Retail trade of food, beverages and tobacco	98,1	100,8	111,7	100,0	103,5	99,6
47.19 + 47.4 + 47.5 + 47.6 + 47.7 + 47.8 + 47.9	Retail trade of non-food products (except of automotive fuels and lubricants)	100,2	103,0	97,7	100,4	104,3	96,3
47 – 47.3	Retail trade, except of automotive fuels and lubricants in specialised stores	100,0	101,8	100,6	100,1	101,4	100,6
47.3	Retail trade of automotive fuels and lubricants	105,0	99,5	96,4	102,1	98,1	99,6
47.91	Retail sale via Internet or via mail order	106,0	97,1	96,1	109,0	93,6	100,2

4 WORKING-DAY ADJUSTED RETAIL TRADE TURNOVER INDICES

NKD 2007 activity code		Retail trade turnover					
		Value indices			Volume indices		
		I 2024 I 2023	II 2024 II 2023	III 2024 III 2023	I 2024 I 2023	II 2024 II 2023	III 2024 III 2023
47	Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	112,3	113,4	112,6	107,9	109,1	108,9
47.11 + 47.2	Retail trade of food, beverages and tobacco	109,1	109,4	112,3	104,0	106,9	108,2
47.19 + 47.4 + 47.5 + 47.6 + 47.7 + 47.8 + 47.9	Retail trade of non-food products (except of automotive fuels and lubricants)	113,2	117,4	111,2	111,9	117,2	110,0
47 - 47.3	Retail trade, except of automotive fuels and lubricants in specialised stores	111,5	112,6	112,0	107,2	108,5	108,7
47.3	Retail trade of automotive fuels and lubricants	117,2	117,3	116,1	112,4	112,7	107,7
47.91	Retail sale via Internet or via mail order	108,8	105,4	94,6	104,7	98,6	93,1

5 GROSS (UNADJUSTED) VALUE INDICES OF RETAIL TRADE TURNOVER, BY BRANCHES

		Share in total turnover, % III 2024	Impact on total index, % ¹⁾ III 2024 III 2023	III 2024 II 2024	III 2024 III 2023	I - III 2024 I - III 2023
	Total	100,0	-	115,8	114,5	115,7
	Total, except of motor vehicles, parts and accessories for motor vehicles, motorcycles and related parts and accessories, and automotive fuels and lubricants	78,3	-	116,9	113,9	114,5
01 + 03 + 04	Motor vehicles, parts and accessories for motor vehicles, motorcycles and related parts and accessories	4,2	0,8	113,7	119,6	129,1
30	Automotive fuels and lubricants	17,5	2,8	112,0	116,1	118,0
11	Non-specialised retail trade with food, beverages and tobacco predominating	36,8	7,1	121,9	119,2	114,7
19	Other non-specialised retail trade with non-food products	6,8	0,6	119,7	109,2	112,4
21 + 22 + 23 + 24 + 25 + 26 + 29	Specialised stores with food, beverages and tobacco	5,8	0,9	117,8	116,1	114,8
73 + 74 + 75	Dispensing chemists, medical and orthopaedic goods, optical products, cosmetic and toilet articles	8,9	2,2	105,6	125,1	129,9
51 + 71 + 72	Textile, clothing, footwear and leather goods	6,0	0,7	119,2	111,2	110,2
43 + 52 + 54 + 59 + 63	Audio and video equipment, hardware, paints and glass, electrical household appliances, furniture and other household articles	8,3	0,2	108,5	102,1	111,6
41 + 42 + 53 + 61 + 62 + 64 + 65 + 76 + 77 + 78 + 79	Computer equipment, books and newspapers, games and toys, flowers and seeds, watches and jewellery and other specialised products	5,7	-0,2	111,9	95,8	104,0

1) Impact on the total index is a product of the multiplication of a trade branch's share in the total turnover and the rate of growth or fall in turnover in a month of the current year in relation to the same month of the previous year divided by 100.

NOTES ON METHODOLOGY

Notice

Since January 2024, the base year has been changed to 2021 and the new observation unit is a kind-of-activity unit (KAU).

The new base year and the new observation unit – kind of activity unit (KAU), are defined by Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on European business statistics, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics, which concerns short-term business statistics of all Member States.

Data at the level of the new observation unit are available until January 2005, and for the period from 2000 to 2004, data are published at the enterprise level.

Time series on retail trade turnover starting with 2000, published with the base year 2021 = 100, are available in Excel tables on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics within **Databases** under the titles **STS Databases** and **PC-Axis Databases**, and within **Statistics in Line** under the title **Economy – Basic Indicators**. The tables in databases published with the old base year (2015 = 100) will no longer be updated.

Precise dissemination dates are listed in the Calendar of Statistical Data Issues for 2024, which is available on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics <https://podaci.dzs.hr/en>.

Sources and methods of data collection

The data are based on the Monthly Report on Retail Trade (TRG-1 form) and administrative data sources (Tax Administration fiscalisation file).

The data are collected via a web-based application (the so-called CAWI). The reporting units enter data directly into the TRG-1 e-form, which is available on the Data Dissemination and Collection Portal of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics at <https://podaci.dzs.hr/hr/obrasci/trgovina-i-ostale-usluge/>. The period for data collection ranges each month, as a rule, between the 1st and the 20th day in a month for the previous reference month data.

The methodology for this survey is based on Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on European business statistics, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics, and the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 of 30 July 2020 laying down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics.

This survey is conducted on the basis of the Official Statistics Act (NN, No. 25/20).

Coverage and comparability

The statistical unit of the retail trade turnover index is a kind-of-activity unit. The observation units are business entities (legal entities and tradesmen) registered in retail trade as their main activity (division 47 of the NKD 2007) as well as selected business entities registered in other activities if performing retail trade activities. The most significant multi-industry enterprises have been divided into so-called kind-of-activity units to improve the homogeneity of the results of statistical surveys by activity, and thus the international comparability of these results.

The survey is carried out by using the sampling method. The sample frame consists of business entities and parts thereof registered in the Register of Business Entities of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics. Since 2021, the sample selection frame has been expanded using an administrative data source (Tax Administration fiscalisation file).

Business entities are divided by their main activity on the basis of the NKD 2007 (NN, Nos 58/07 and 123/08). By size, they are divided into classes from 1 to 7.

The criterion for determining the size of a business entity is the number of persons in employment. Business entities of size 1 are those employing 0 – 4 persons, of size 2 those employing 5 – 9 persons, of size 3 those employing 10 – 19 persons, of size 4 those employing 20 – 49 persons, of size 5 those employing 50 – 99 persons, of size 6 those employing 100 – 249 persons and of size 7 those employing 250 and more persons. For business entities engaged primarily in non-trade activities, the number of persons in employment in trade activities is taken into account.

The method used to select the sample is the cut-off method. The sample covers all business entities employing 10 and more persons as well as business entities selected by using cut-off method employing less than 10 persons and covering 70% of the total turnover in each class of division 47 of the NKD 2007. Due to the application of the cut-off method for selecting the sample, the standard error and the coefficient of variation are not calculated.

Seasonal and working-day adjustment method

Since 2016, in the process of seasonal adjustment the software package JDemetra+ and X13 ARIMA method has been used. This process identifies and assesses seasonal and working-day effects in time series by using statistical models and procedures.

The revision of the previously published seasonally and working-day adjusted indices is due to several causes. The most common cause is the change in estimated parameters of existing statistical models while conducting new estimates, which occurs due to new observations. Other causes are changes in source data or in applied statistical models.

Calendar effects have a significant impact on time series movement, the most common of which are the effect of moving holidays, the effect of the leap year and the effect of working days.

Notice concerning the terminology

In the Croatian language, the term "kalendarsko prilagođavanje" (calendar adjustment) is not the literal translation of the term "working-day adjustment" in English, which means "adjustment for the number of working days". It is used in order to prevent misunderstandings by national users.

The term "working-day adjustment" in short-term business statistics actually refers to calendar adjustment, but due to specific Eurostat's requirements for short-term statistics, the term "working-day adjustment" is used instead.

Seasonally and working-day adjusted indices

The seasonally and working-day adjusted indices imply that the gross indices are adjusted for seasonal and working-day effects. Indices adjusted in that way and associated rates of change in two consecutive observations are used to compare data with data from the previous month.

In line with the above mentioned, month-on-month growth rates of turnover calculated on the basis of seasonally and working-day adjusted indices are presented and interpreted (the comparison between the indices of the current reporting month with the indices of the previous reporting month) in the monthly comparison (First Release, tables 1 and 3).

Working-day adjusted indices

Working-day adjusted indices imply that the gross indices are adjusted only for calendar effects. Indices adjusted in that way and associated inter-annual rates of change are used to compare data with data from the same month of the previous year.

In line with the above mentioned, year-on-year growth rates of the volume of turnover calculated on the basis of working-day adjusted indices are presented and interpreted (comparison between indices of the reporting month with the indices of the same reporting month of the previous year) in the annual comparison (First Release, tables 2 and 4).

Trend indices

Time series of trend indices are released with each revision of seasonally adjusted data in Excel tables on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics within the **Databases** under the titles **STS Databases** and **PC-Axis Databases**, and within **Statistics in Line** under the title **Economy – Basic Indicators**.

Gross indices

In order to sustain the consistency and continuity with the previously released data, indices continue to be presented as gross, unadjusted indices in the same way as before (First Release, tables 1, 2 and 5).

Data are regularly sent to Eurostat every month (in the form of value and volume gross, seasonally and working-day adjusted indices on the basis of 2021). They are available on [Eurostat's website](#) together with the indicators of other EU Member States they are comparable with.

Definitions

Turnover is the total value of all goods sold and services provided on the market in a month, irrespective of whether paid up or not. It also includes the value added tax.

Retail trade turnover is a turnover generated by all business entities engaged in this activity, irrespective of their registered main activity.

The results are published in the form of nominal (value indices) and real indices (volume indices).

Value indices show the turnover movements in current prices.

Volume indices are calculated by deflating the value indices by the retail trade price indices of goods (without electricity and water distribution) according to the consumer price indices.

Retail trade branches

Retail trade branches represent the actual predominant assortment of sales in the retail trade. Since January 2024, the main criterion for monitoring the turnover by trade branches is based on what is sold, not on sales channels, and turnover indices for the following trade branches are no longer published: Retail sale via Internet or via mail order and Other non-store retail sale.

Abbreviations

CAWI	computer-assisted web interview
EC	European Community
EU	European Union
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Union
KAU	kind-of-activity unit
NKD 2007	National Classification of Activities, 2007 version
NN	Narodne novine, official gazette of the Republic of Croatia

Symbols

- no occurrence



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